

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04894 031400Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 OES-07 EB-08 DOE-15 SOE-02
DLOS-09 IO-14 COME-00 /107 W
-----010430 031922Z /53

O R 031320Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2485
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ANKARA 4894

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PLOS, EMIN, TU
SUBJ: BEGINNING OF OIL DRILLING IN AEGEAN SEAN NEAR FOCA.

REF: (A) ANKARA 4189 (DTG 021310Z JUN 78), (B) ATHENS 4376
(DTG 261541Z MAY 78)

1. ON JULY 3, MFA SECTION CHIEF FOR AEGEAN SEABED
MATTERS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT PETROLEUM DRILLING IS TAKING
PLACE IN AEGEAN SEA NEAR FOCA AS REPORTED JULY 1 AND 3 IN
PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET. HE SAID THE CURRENT DRILLING SITE
IS COMPLETELY WITHIN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS AND THAT THERE
ARE NO PLANS FOR DRILLING IN DISPUTED AREA OF AEGEAN.

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2. ACCORDING TO MILLIYET ARTICLES, DRILLING BEGAN IN LATE
JUNE (ACCORDING TO JULY 3 ARTICLE, "12 DAYS AGO"). DRILLING
IS REPORTEDLY BEING CARRIED OUT AS A JOINT PROJECT OF WEEKS
PETROLEUM, DORCHESTER GAS, AND UNION TAXAS OF TURKEY, WITH
A FIRM IDENTIFIED ONLY AS SALVESON DOING THE CONTRACTING
WORK. THE DRILLING, DONE FROM THE DRILLING SHIP "DALKEIT",

WAS REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED A DEPTH OF 930 METERS BY
JULY 3 WITH A MAXIMUM OF 3,700 METERS TO BE REACHED.
IF THE FIRST WELL FAILS TO PRODUCE RESULTS,A SECOND WELL IS
TO BE DRILLED "DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE ALIAGA REFINERY." DRILLING
SITE, WHICH MILLIYET REPORTING EMPHASIZED WAS WITHIN TURKISH
TERRITORIAL WATERS, WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING 6 KM. FROM FOCA
AND 60 KM. FROM IZMIR. ALTHOUGH THIS DESCRIPTION WOULD
APPEAR TO PUT THE SITE WITHIN THE GULF OF IZMIR, JULY 3
PICTURE CAPTION SAYS THE DRILLING IS TAKING PLACE "OFF ALIAGA".

3. JULY 3 ARTICLE ADDED THAT THE SEISMIC RESEARCH SHIP SISMIK-I
(HORA) WOULD BE CARRYING OUT THOROUGH RESEARCH ALONG THE
SHORES OF THE BLACK SEA. SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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